

## § 12.1

- 12.3 Applicability.
- 12.4 Determination of ineligibility.
- 12.5 Exemption.
- 12.6 Administration.
- 12.7 Certification of compliance.
- 12.8 Affiliated persons.
- 12.9 Landlords and tenants.
- 12.10 Scheme or device.
- 12.11 Action based upon advice or action of USDA.
- 12.12 Appeals.

#### Subpart B—Highly Erodible Land Conservation

- 12.20 NRCS responsibilities regarding highly erodible land.
- 12.21 Identification of highly erodible lands criteria.
- 12.22 Highly erodible field determination criteria.
- 12.23 Conservation plans and conservation systems.

#### Subpart C—Wetland Conservation

- 12.30 NRCS responsibilities regarding wetlands.
- 12.31 On-site wetland identification criteria.
- 12.32 Converted wetland identification criteria.
- 12.33 Use of wetland and converted wetland.
- 12.34 Paperwork Reduction Act assigned number.

AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 3801 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 61 FR 47025, Sept. 6, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

### Subpart A—General Provisions

#### § 12.1 General.

(a) *Scope.* This part sets forth the terms and conditions under which a person who produces an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land or designates such land for conservation use, plants an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland, or converts a wetland shall be determined to be ineligible for certain benefits provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and agencies and instrumentalities of USDA.

(b) *Purpose.* The purpose of the provisions of this part are to remove certain incentives for persons to produce agricultural commodities on highly erodible land or converted wetland and to thereby—

- (1) Reduce soil loss due to wind and water erosion;
- (2) Protect the Nation's long-term capability to produce food and fiber;

(3) Reduce sedimentation and improve water quality; and

(4) Assist in preserving the functions and values of the Nation's wetlands.

#### § 12.2 Definitions.

(a) *General.* The following definitions shall be applicable for the purposes of this part:

*Agricultural commodity* means any crop planted and produced by annual tilling of the soil, including tilling by one-trip planters, or sugarcane.

*CCC* means the Commodity Credit Corporation, a wholly-owned government corporation within USDA organized under the provisions of 15 U.S.C. 714 *et seq.*

*Conservation District (CD)* means a subdivision of a State or local government organized pursuant to the applicable law to develop and implement soil and water conservation activities or programs.

*Conservation plan* means the document that—

(1) Applies to highly erodible cropland;

(2) Describes the conservation system applicable to the highly erodible cropland and describes the decisions of the person with respect to location, land use, tillage systems, and conservation treatment measures and schedules; and

(3) Is approved by the local soil conservation district in consultation with the local committees established under section 8(b)(5) of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act (16 U.S.C. 590h(b)(5)) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for purposes of compliance with this part.

*Conservation system* means a combination of one or more conservation measures or management practices that are—

(1) Based on local resource conditions, available conservation technology, and the standards and guidelines contained in the NRCS field office technical guides (available from NRCS State offices); and

(2) Designed for purposes of this part to achieve, in a cost-effective and technically practicable manner, a substantial reduction in soil erosion or a substantial improvement in soil conditions on a field or group of fields containing highly erodible cropland when